

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently Amended) An intermedullary apparatus for positioning and providing compressive fixation of fractured bones comprising:
a guide wire having a proximal end and a distal end;
a dilator disposed on said guide wire about adjacent to said guide wire distal end;
a proximal stop disposed on said guide wire about adjacent to said guide wire proximal end;
said dilator having a tapered distal surface, an at least partially transverse proximal surface and a tubular inner surface defining a longitudinal through hole, said dilator being disposable on said guide wire wherein said guide wire extends into said through hole;
a tube disposable over said guide wire and having a sidewall including a radially expandable anchor portion adapted for radial expansion upon compression of said tube between said at least partially transverse proximal surface and said proximal stop; and
~~The apparatus according to claim 1~~ wherein said tapered distal surface includes means to prevent rotation of said dilator relative to said guide wire.
5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 4 wherein said guide wire includes a distal tip having a diameter greater than the diameter of said longitudinal through hole.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 5 wherein said means to prevent rotation comprise a polygonal mating surface adapted to fit an opposite gendered polygonal mating surface of said distal tip.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) An intermedullary apparatus for positioning and providing compressive fixation of fractured bones comprising:

a guide wire having a proximal end and a distal end;

a dilator disposed on said guide wire about adjacent to said guide wire distal end;

a proximal stop disposed on said guide wire about adjacent to said guide wire proximal end;

said dilator having a tapered distal surface, an at least partially transverse proximal surface and a tubular inner surface defining a longitudinal through hole, said dilator being disposable on said guide wire wherein said guide wire extends into said through hole;

a tube disposable over said guide wire and having a sidewall including a radially expandable anchor portion adapted for radial expansion upon compression of said tube between said at least partially transverse proximal surface and said proximal stop;

wherein said tube and said guide wire are flexible; and

~~The apparatus according to claim 10~~ wherein said ribs include at least one reduced section formed in a central portion of each rib.

14. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 13 wherein said at least one reduced section comprises a crease formed transversely across said central portion of each rib.

15. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 13 wherein said at least one reduced section comprises a narrowed section of each rib.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) A long bone segment positioning apparatus comprising:
a flexible guide wire having a proximal end and a distal end;
a distal stop disposed on said guide wire about adjacent to said guide wire distal end;
a proximal stop disposed on said guide wire about adjacent to said guide wire proximal end;
a flexible tube disposable over said guide wire and having a sidewall including a radially expandable anchor portion adapted for radial expansion upon compression of said tube between said distal stop and said proximal stop;
a dilator having a tapered distal surface, an at least partially transverse proximal surface and a tubular inner surface defining a longitudinal through hole; said dilator being disposable on said guide wire wherein said guide wire extends through said through hole;
wherein said at least partially transverse proximal surface is countersunk to accept said tube and serves as said distal stop;
wherein said distal stop has a width greater than the diameter of said longitudinal through hole;
wherein said proximal stop is formed as a distal surface of an interface washer installed over said proximal end of said guide wire;

wherein said radially expandable anchor portion comprises a plurality of evenly spaced ribs formed between a plurality of longitudinal slots disposed through said sidewall;

wherein said radially expandable anchor portion is disposed toward said distal end for engagement with a distal bone segment;

wherein said ribs include at least one reduced section formed in a central portion of each rib segment; and

wherein said radially expandable anchor portion is adapted to collapse upon relaxation of compression forces between distal and proximal segments of said tube.

- 24. (Cancelled)
- 25. (Cancelled)
- 26. (Cancelled)
- 27. (Cancelled)
- 28. (Cancelled)
- 29. (Cancelled)
- 30. (Cancelled)
- 31. (Cancelled)
- 32. (Cancelled)